

REMARKS

Claims 1-51 remain pending in the present application.

In the Restriction Requirement, the Examiner required Applicants to elect, for examination, one of Species I, shown in Figures 1-11 of Applicants' drawings, and Species II, shown in Figures 12-16 of Applicants' drawings.

Applicants have elected Species I, shown in Figures 1-11, and submit that claims 1-22 read on Species I. However, the election is made with traverse for at least the following reasons.

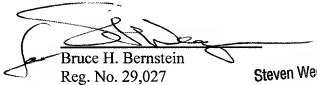
Applicants submit that the present application is a National Stage Application submitted under 35 U.S.C. §371. Applicants submit that unity of invention practice, and not the currently applied restriction practice, is applicable in the present application (see, for example, M.P.E.P. §1893.03(d)). Thus, Applicants submit that it is erroneous of the Examiner to apply U.S. restriction practice to a 371 National Stage Application, and respectfully requests that the restriction requirement be withdrawn.

Applicants further submit that all the claims in the application are linked to form a single inventive concept, and thus, all the claims should be examined.

Applicants note that no restriction was set forth in International Application No. PCT/JP04/014907, which was the International Application from which the present National Stage application is based. Accordingly, Applicants submit that at least one International Examiner considered the issue of lack of unity and concluded that the claims are so linked as to form a single inventive concept.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request the restriction requirement be reconsidered and withdrawn. Any comments or questions concerning this application can be directed to the undersigned at the telephone number given below

Respectfully submitted,  
Kenji OSHIMA et al.



Bruce H. Bernstein  
Reg. No. 29,027

Steven Wegman  
Reg. No. 31,438

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GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.  
1950 Roland Clarke Place  
Reston, VA 20191  
(703) 716-1191